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Written Testimony in FAVOR of House Bill – HB 1315 – Public Service Commission - Electricity Generation Facilities – Premature Retirement (Keep the Lights On Act).

Dear Chair Wison, Vice Chair Crosby, and Honorable Members of the House Economic Matters Committee,

My name is Chuck Thompson and a resident of District 31 in Northern Anne Arundel County.

I support HB 1315 as amended because I'm concerned nobody is looking after the residential and commercial interests of Maryland.

When I heard about the bill, I reviewed Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan (the Plan) to understand the plans around electricity generation. A couple of statements on page 15 caught my attention. First, "Many details of this plan must be worked out by the agencies and legislative committees." That's somewhat understandable, this is a long-term process. But the second statement began to worry me. "This plan focuses on how to reduce emissions."

So, who is focusing on keeping the lights on?

One of the Plan's appendices presents the historical and projected electricity generation by technology based on current and planned policies. It shows an overall increase in electricity generation in 2025 driven by two technologies: imported and solar. In addition, it states "coal power is assumed to phase out by 2025."

My takeaway is more planning and analysis for electricity generation is needed. For example, what's the status of these two growth areas? One of them, solar, is projected to increase from 2.3 TWh in 2020 to 11.3 TWh in 2025. Will all technologies be in place by 2025 to achieve the projections? How about changes to the power grid to support the transition? At what cost?

Since the MDE prepared the Plan, I contacted them to get the latest status of the growth technologies but have not heard back. This concerns me because critical information like this should be readily available.

Absent any response, I'm not confident the power generation projections are achievable.

Now that the Plan has been developed on how to reduce emissions, this baseline can be used to support the deliverables from this bill. Please do not allow Marylanders to be harmed due to optimistic planning from analysts.

I request a FAVORABLE report for HB 1315.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CW Thompson", is written over the typed name.

Chuck Thompson